



---

# **Projecting Changes in the Scope and Health Service Utilization of Older Veterans Experiencing Homelessness**

**Thomas Byrne, PhD**

Investigator, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

Homeless Evidence and Research Synthesis  
Roundtable Series

November 19, 2015



---

# Overview

1. A cohort effect: Why homelessness among older Veterans will likely increase in coming years
2. Projecting changes in size of population and use of health services
3. Implications of aging trend

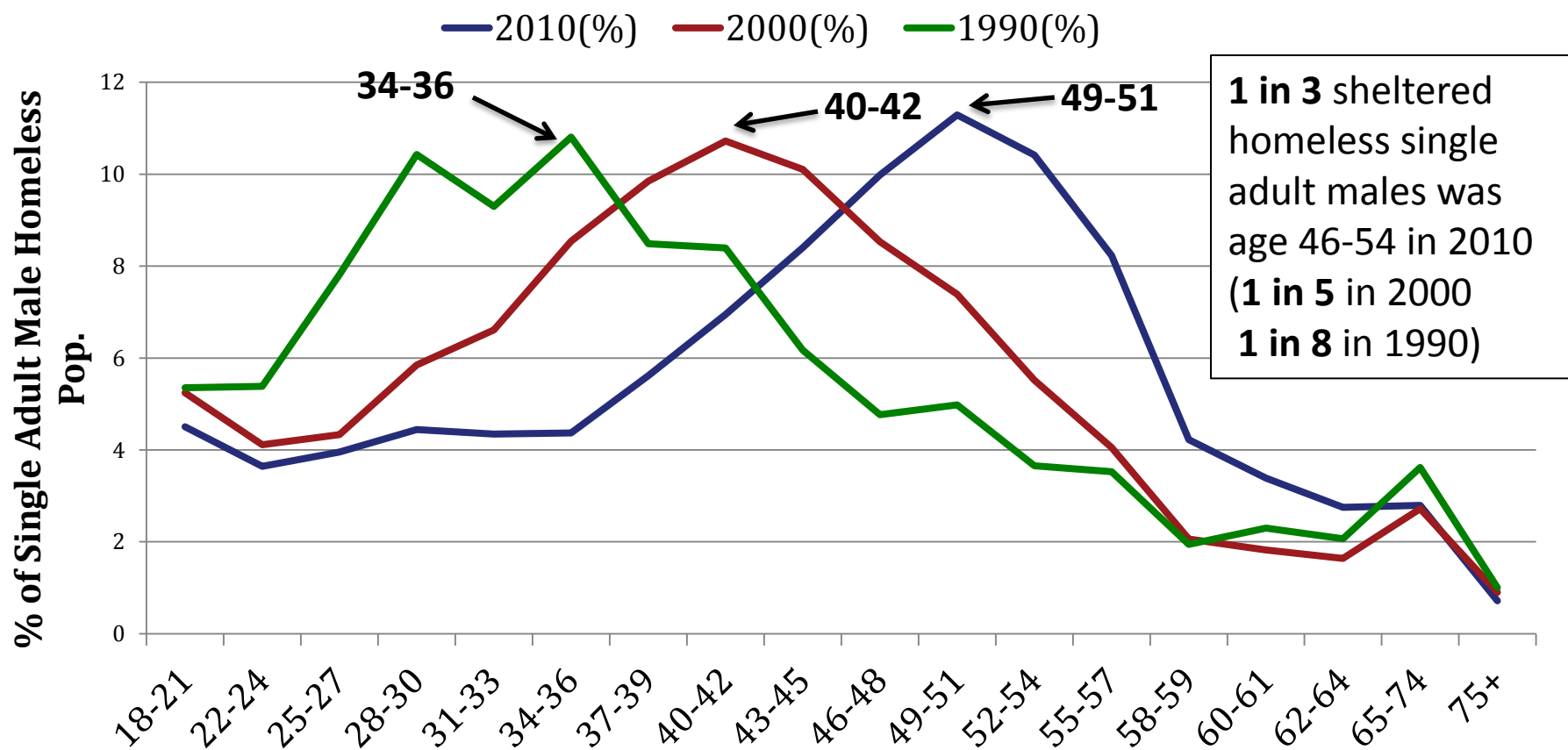


---

# 1) A COHORT EFFECT



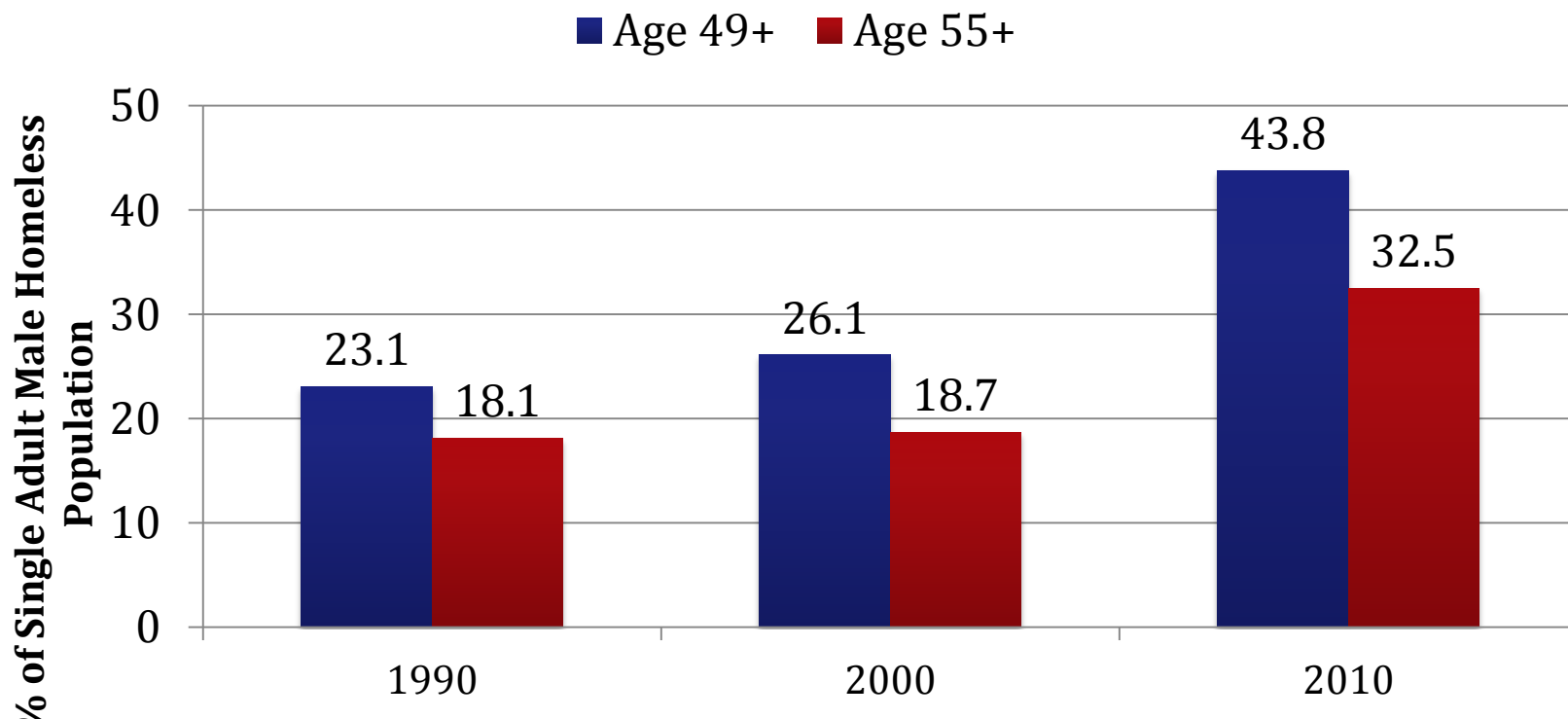
# A Cohort Phenomenon





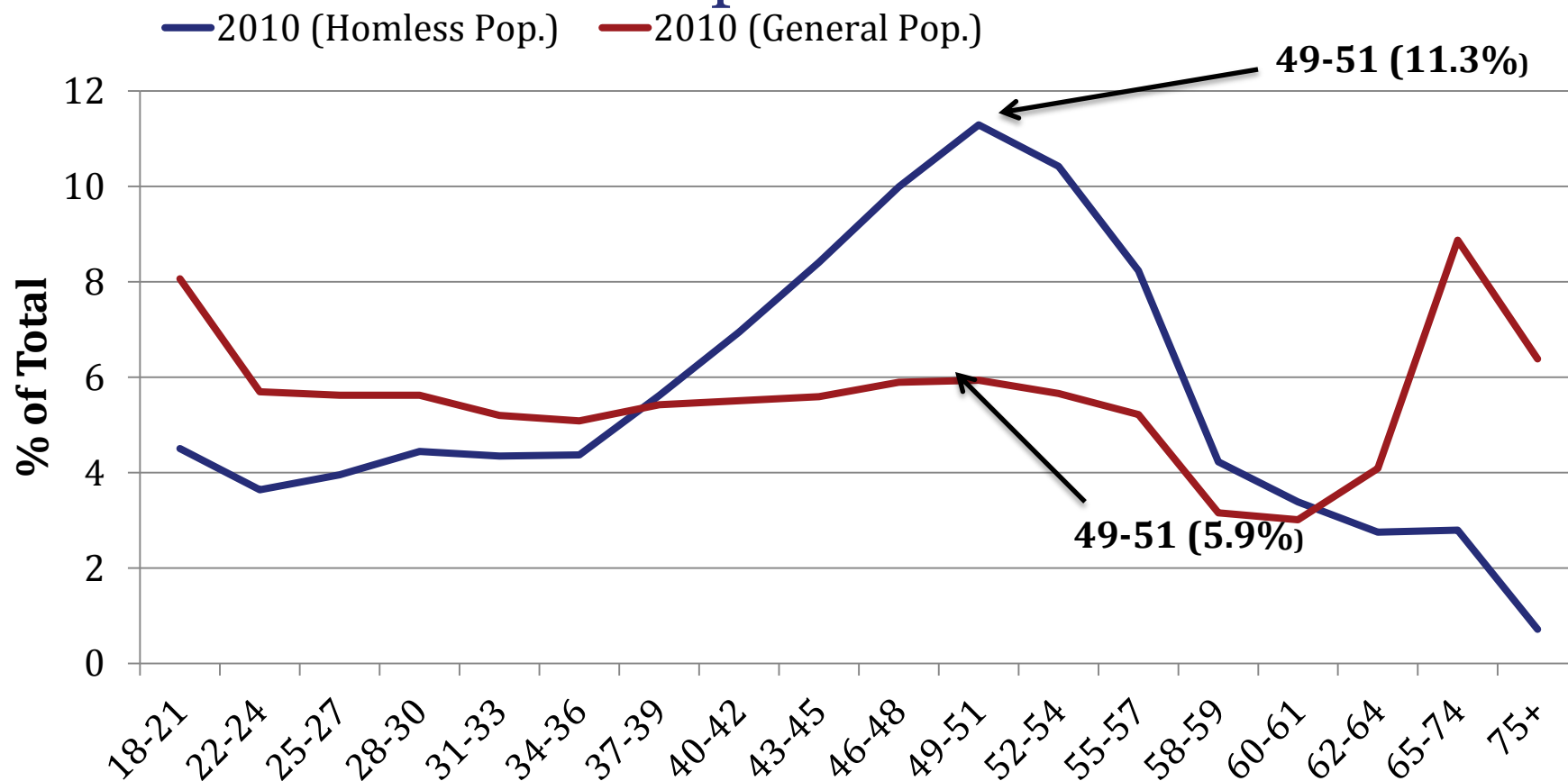
# A Cohort Phenomenon

**% Sheltered Single Adult Male Homeless Population  
Accounted For By Persons Ages 49+ and 55+, 1990-2010**





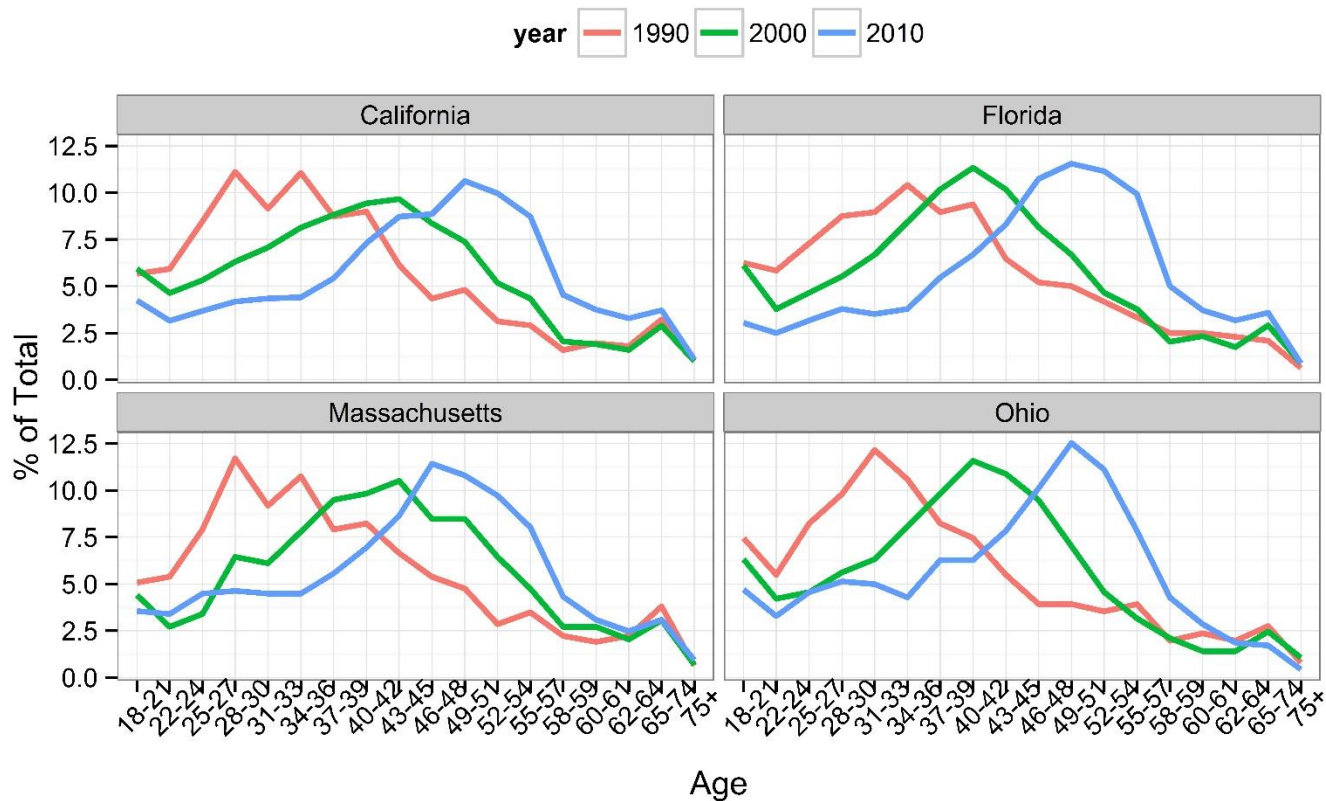
## Aging Trend Is Distinct from Aging of General Population





# Trend Consistent Across Jurisdictions

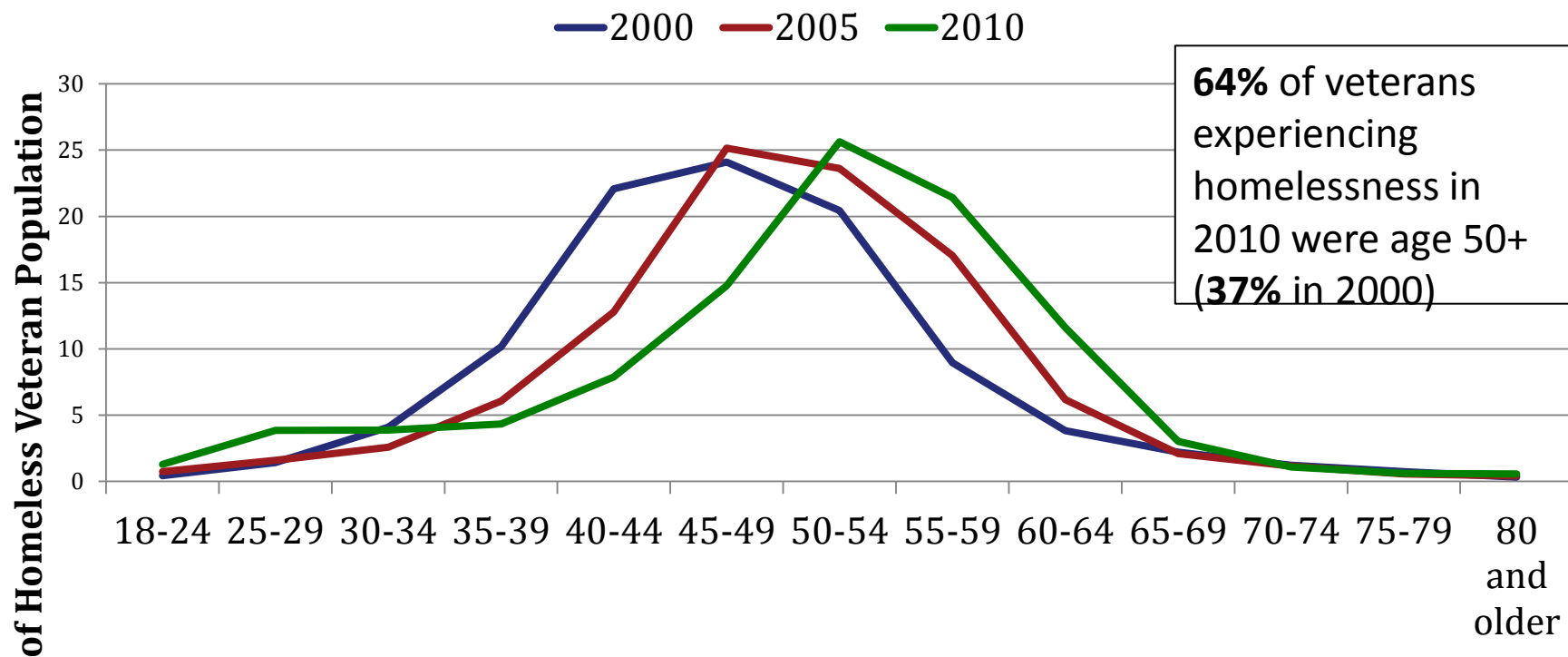
Age Distribution of Single Adult Males in Shelter  
1990, 2000, 2010





# Similar Trend Among Veterans

**Age Distribution of Homeless Veteran Population (based on users of VA specialized homeless programs) , 2000-2010**







---

## 2) PROJECTIONS

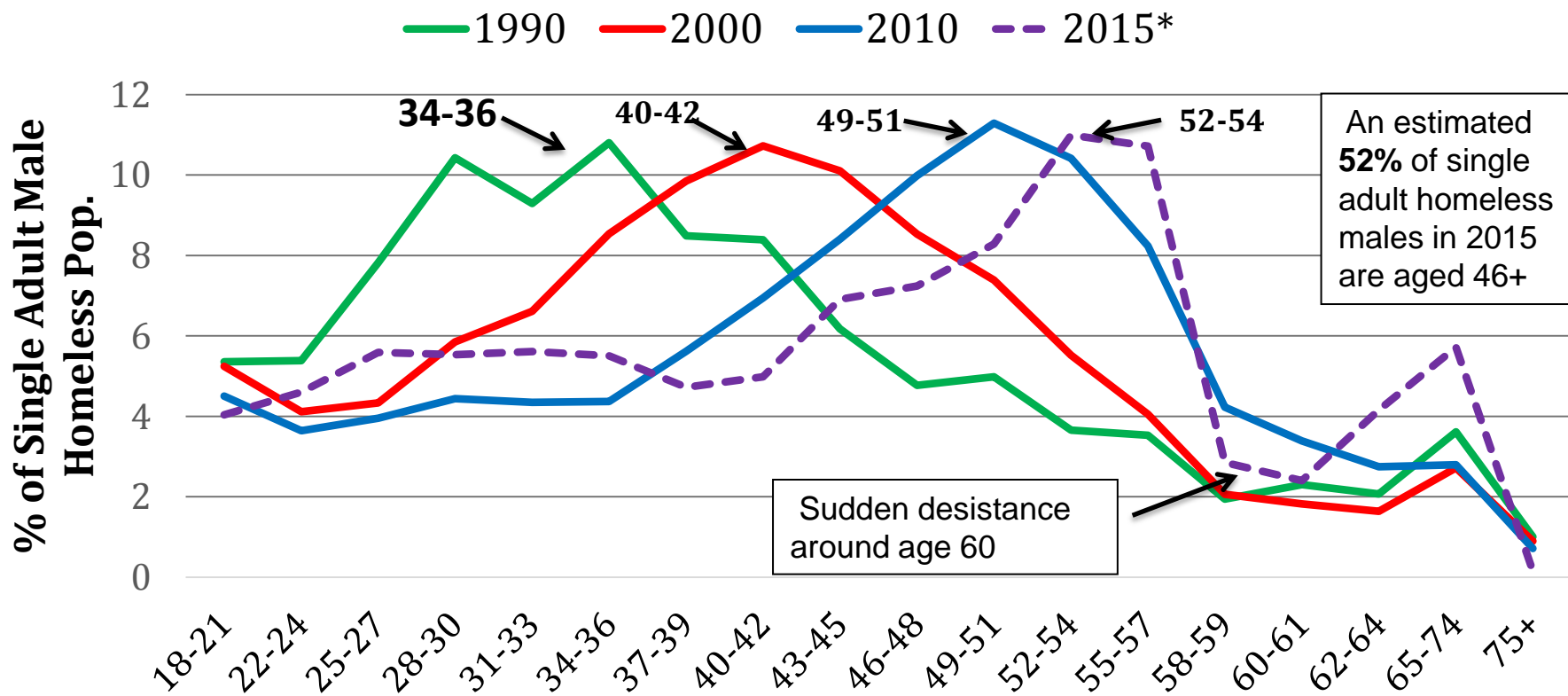


# Population Projections

- Worked with a team of demographers to create projections of future age distribution of single adult and Veteran homeless population
- Used this to create extrapolated projections of PIT and Annual Veteran counts in 2015, 2020, and 2025
- Basic approach:
  - 1) Use 2010 PIT/Annual count as base year
  - 2) Impute age distribution of Vets in 2010
  - 3) Use projections to calculate % change in count for each age group in 2015, 2020, 2025 relative to 2010
  - 4) Multiply 2010 count in each age group by % change from step 3 to get extrapolated counts



## Projected Age Distribution of Single Adult Homeless Population in 2015

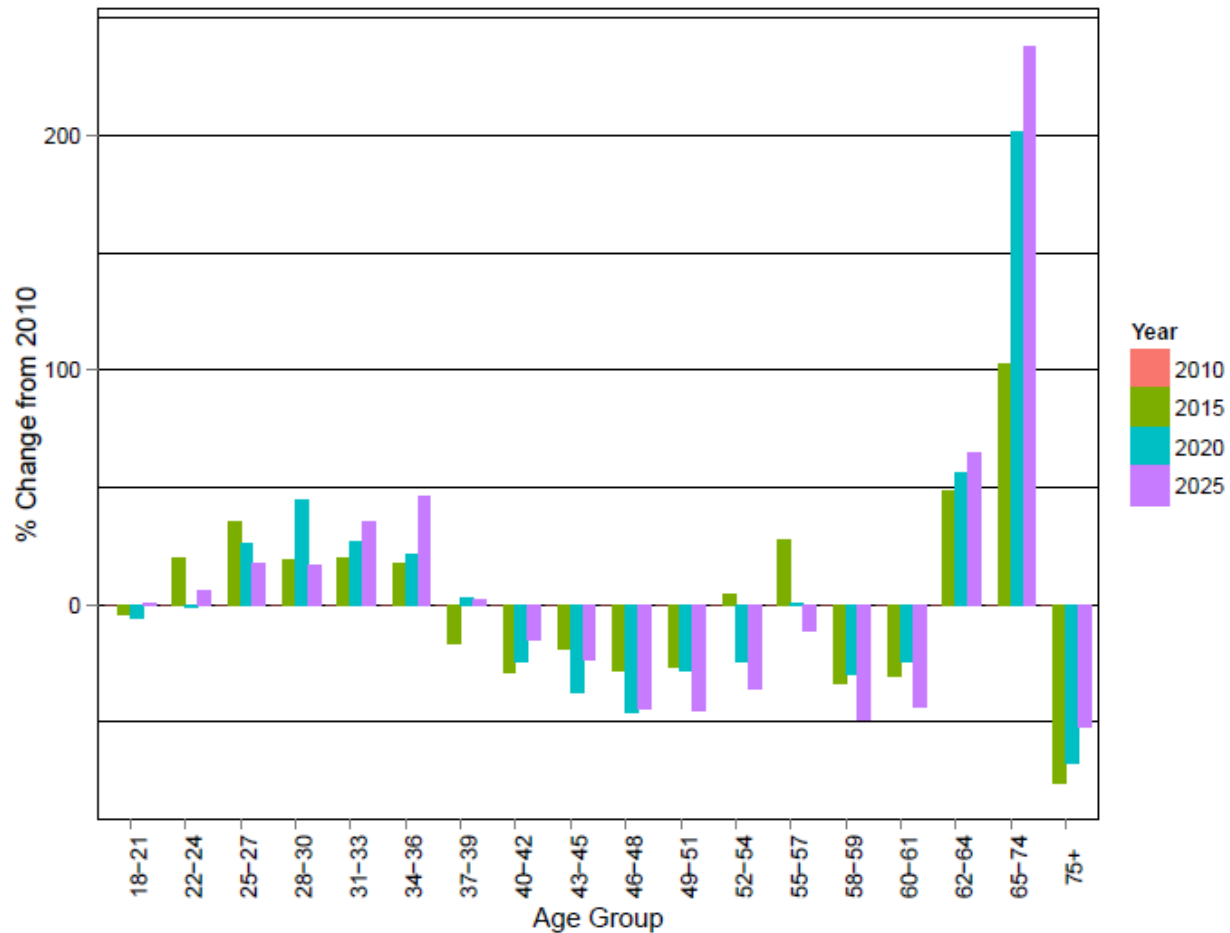


\*Estimated

Source: Author Estimates Based Data from U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Special Tabulation and AHAR Report

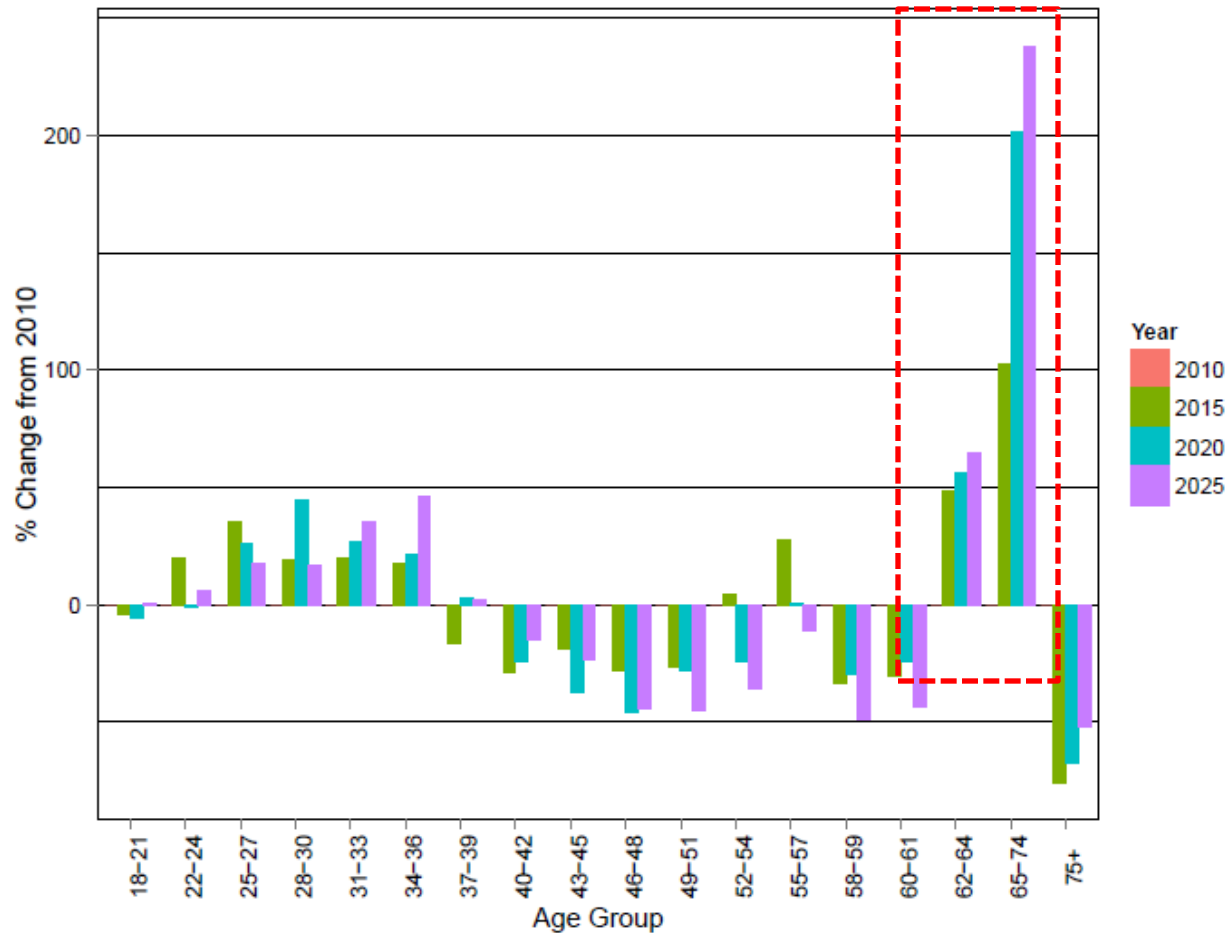


# Veteran PIT Projections



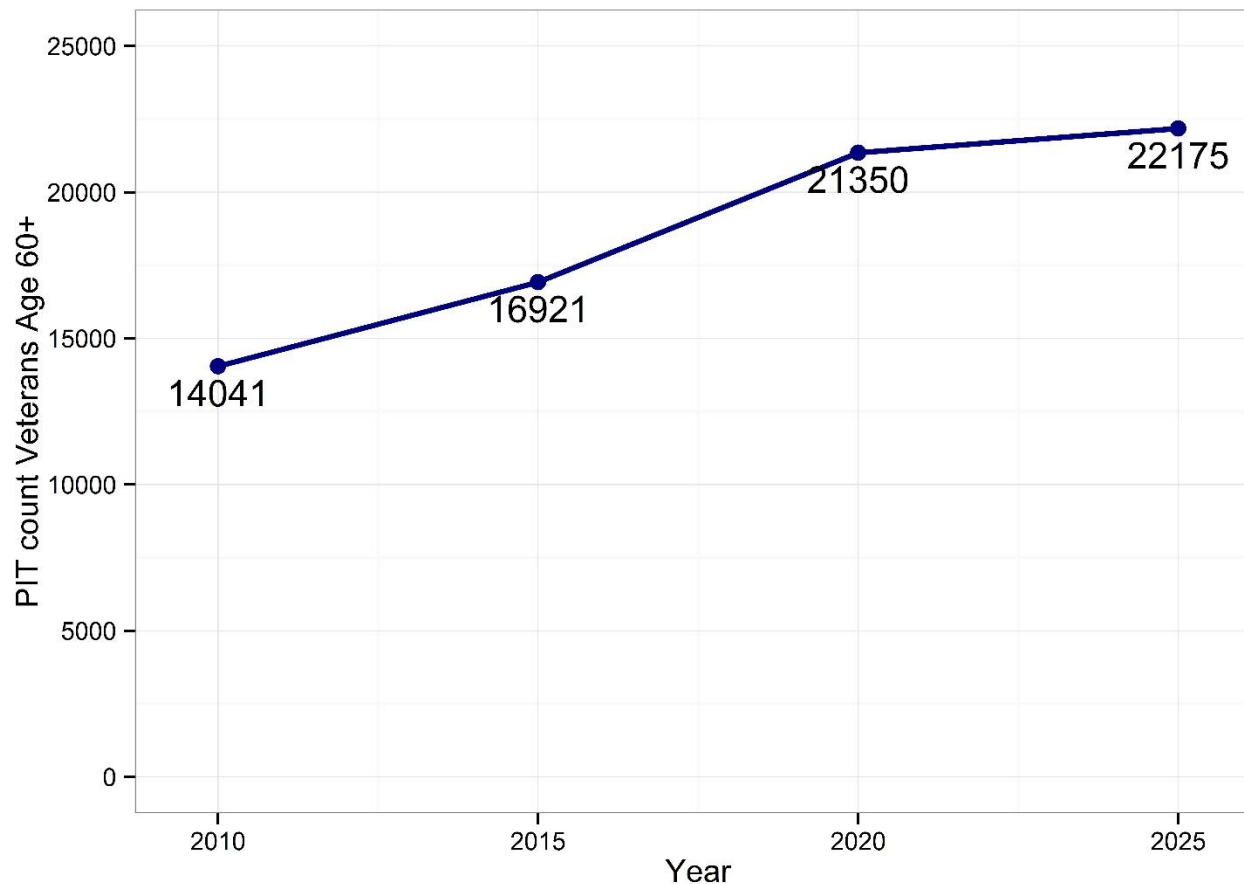


# Veteran PIT Projections



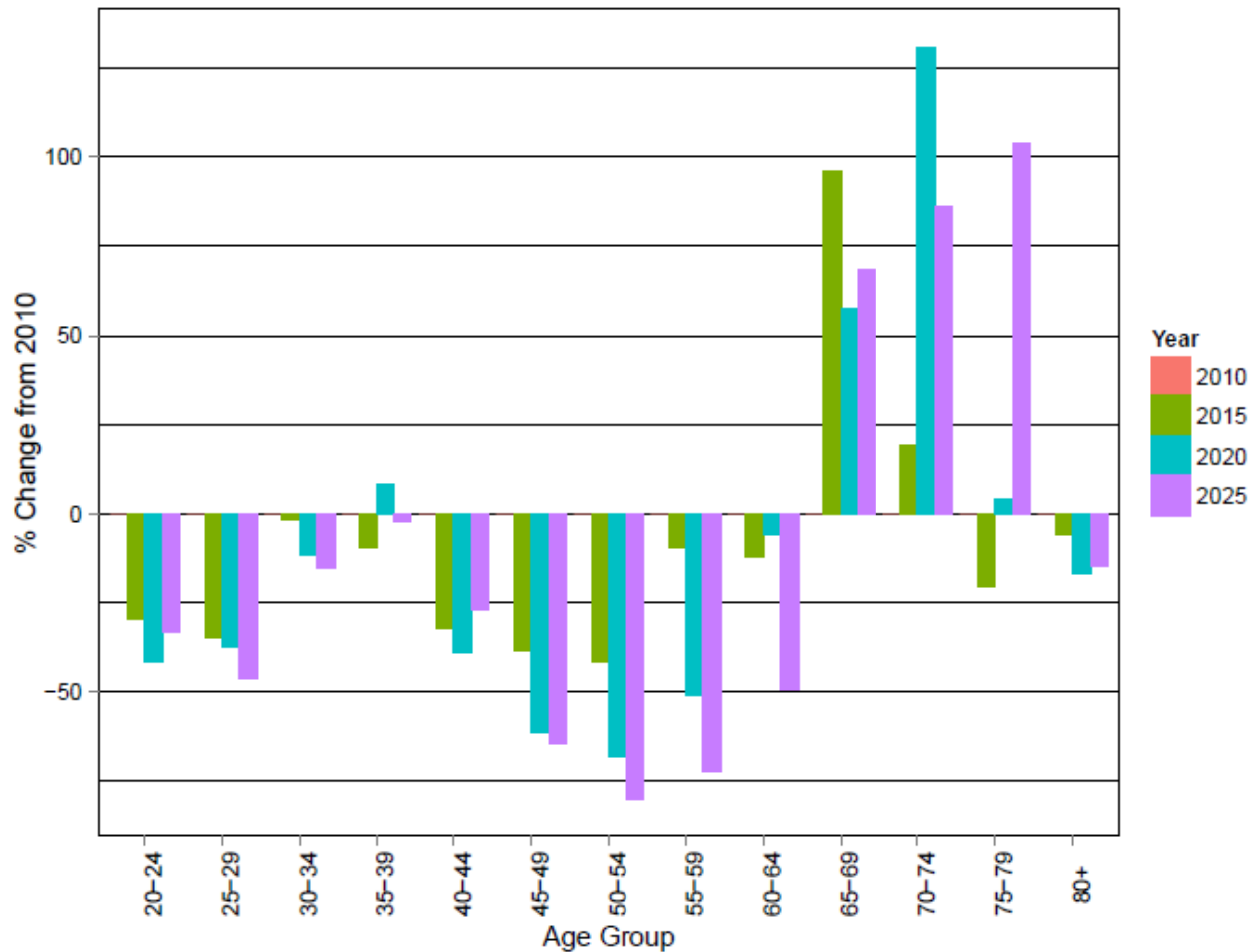


# Projected PIT count of Homeless Veterans Age 60+



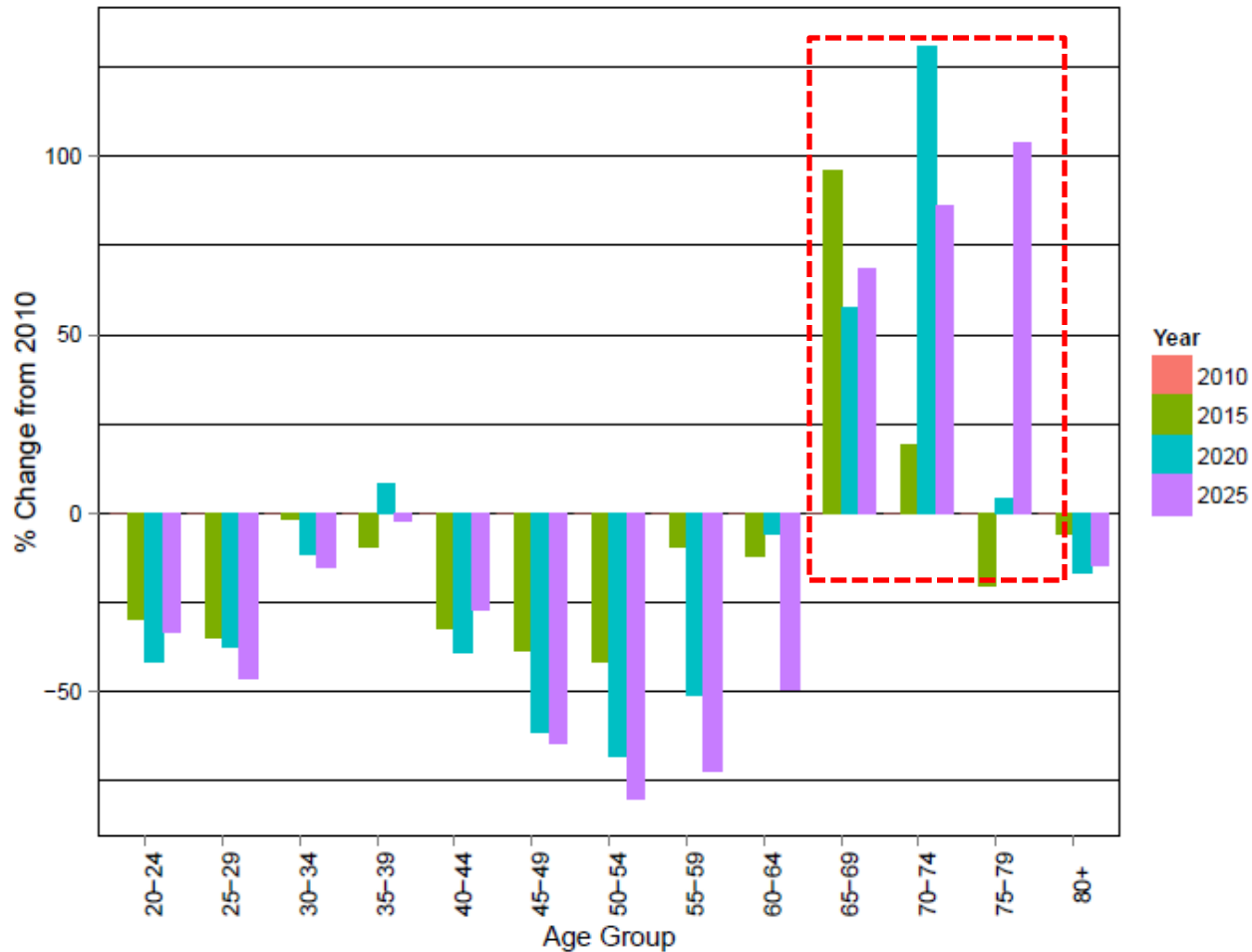


# Veteran Annual Projections





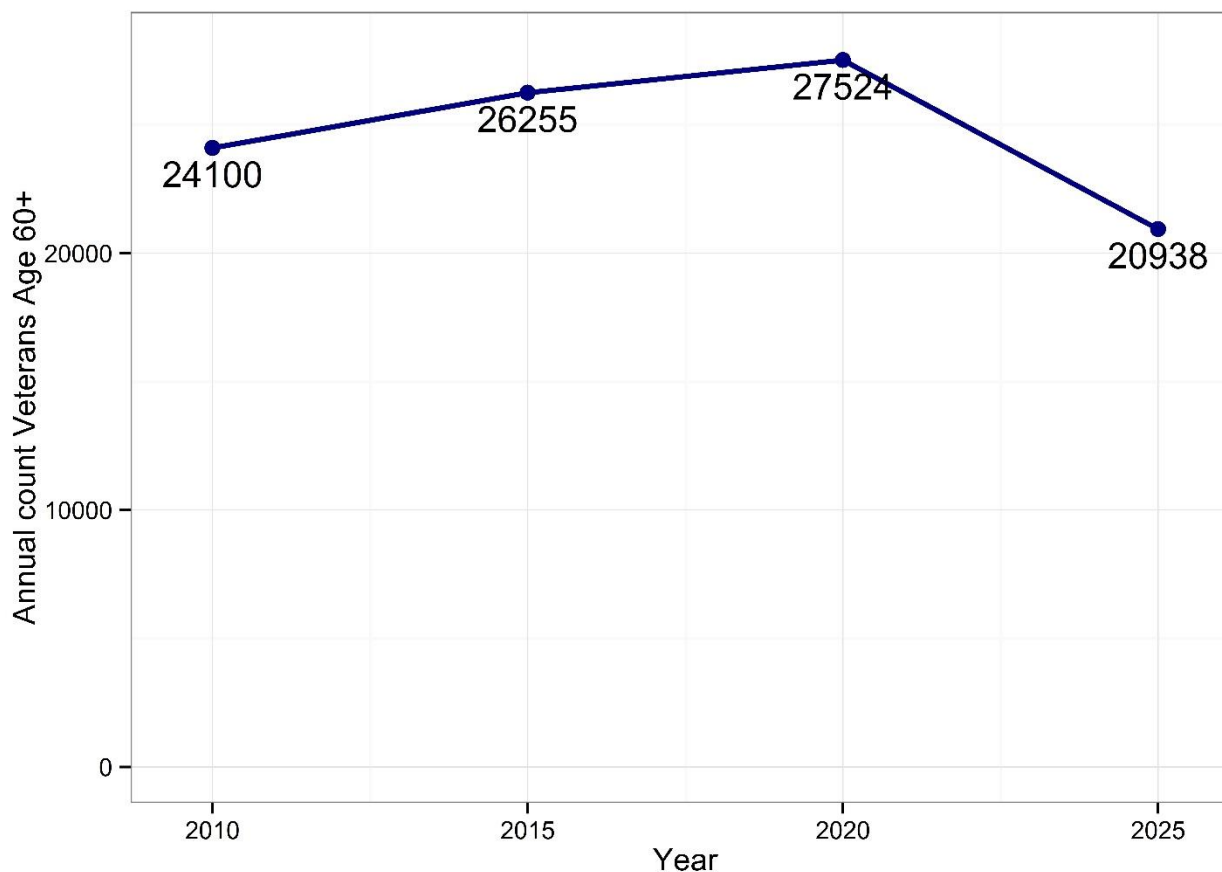
# Veteran Annual Projections







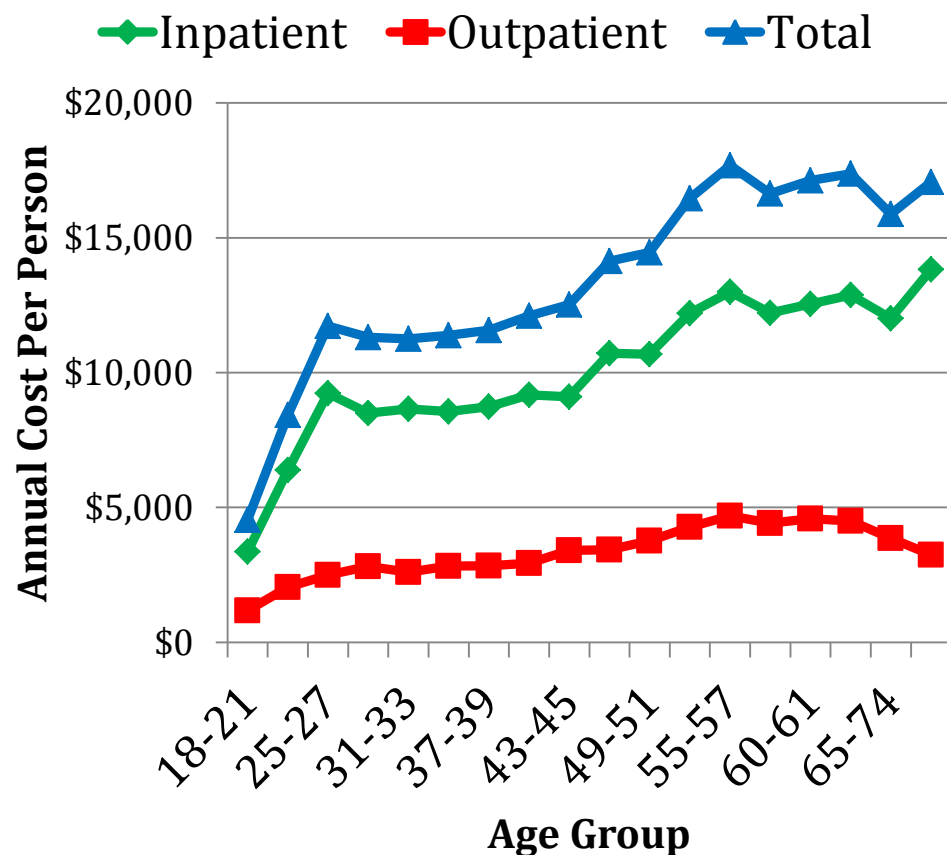
# Projected Annual count of Homeless Veterans Age 60+





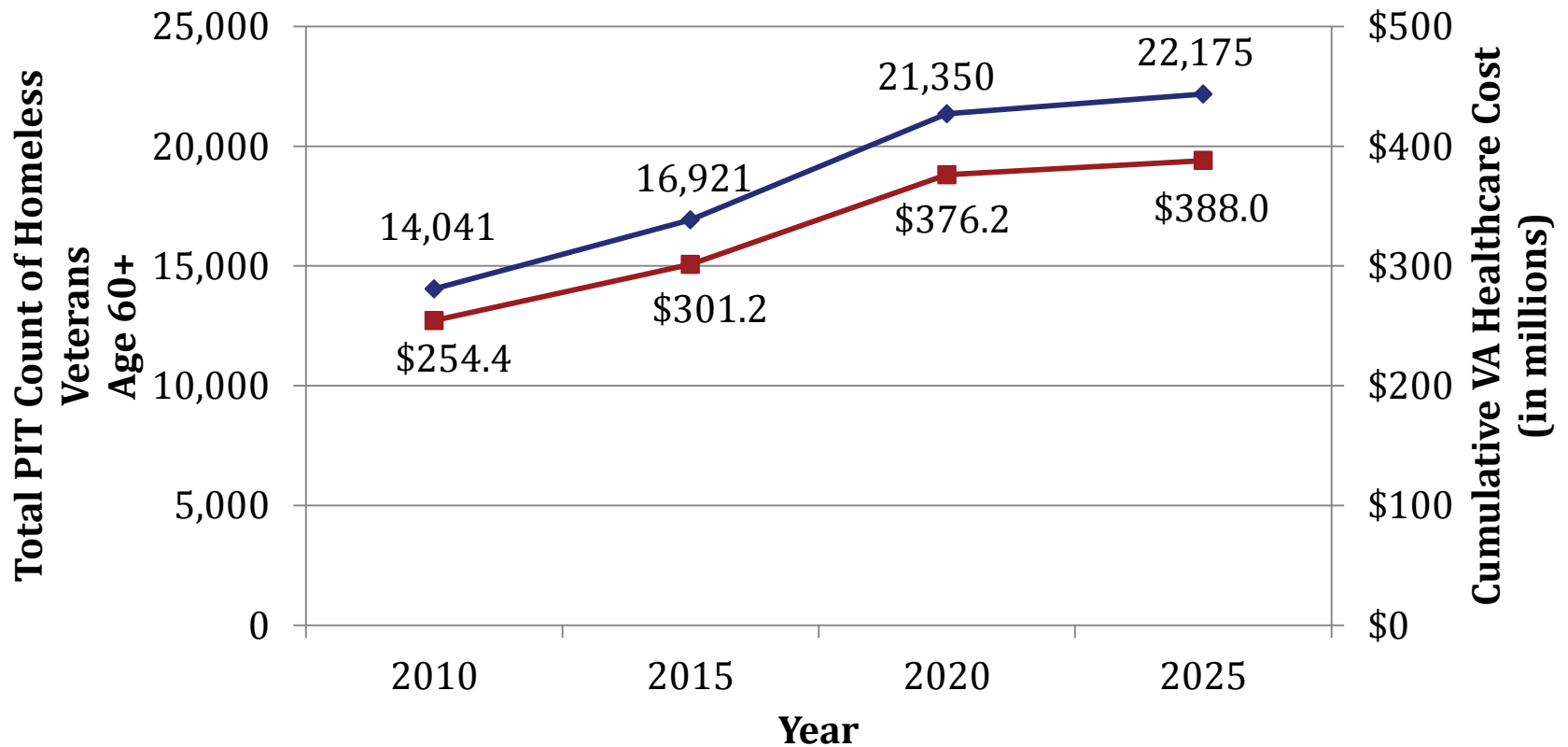
## Health Care Costs for Homeless Veterans Increase With Age

- Average life expectancy of single homeless adults is 64 for males & 69 for females (Metraux et al, 2011)
- With increasing number of homeless Veterans persons approaching life expectancy, health care needs and associated costs expected to increase





# Projecting Health Care Costs





---

## 3) IMPLICATIONS



# Changing Population Will Require Adjusting Responses

- Addressing geriatric conditions/mortality in all programs
  - Staff training, facility/building changes
- Targeted intervention to improve housing stability of older Veterans
- Linkages with income support and/or other mainstream resources